

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 20, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and claim 4 has been added. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-4 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 3/2. Claims 2 and 3/2 were not rewritten in independent form as they depend from claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons submitted below.

Claims 1 and 3/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. 02001-355691A, "Yamamoto"). An English translation of Yamamoto is attached herewith. Claim 1 recites the allowable subject matter of claim 2. As such the rejection is now rendered moot.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-4 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper,

may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 100725-00105.**

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda L. Barton
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,271

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX PLLC

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

RLB/elz

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time (two months)
English Translation of Yamamoto

TECH/290845.1